

Town Manager's Office Town of Mansfield

Date: October 13, 2015
Re: Town Manager's Report

Below please find a report regarding various items of interest to the Town Council, staff and the community:

Major Projects and Initiatives

- [Community Playground](#) – The Mansfield community built a playground this weekend! Over 130 volunteers gave their time and talent to put together components for the new accessible playground. Local businesses and the PTA/PTO's donated food to feed the volunteers. There are still some items to be completed, such as the picket fence, the hand tiles and the donor board. In addition, the contractor will install the poured-in-place surface on October 19th. The playground committee is planning a ribbon cutting ceremony for 10:00 AM, October 31, 2015. I would like to thank the organizers, donors and all of our volunteers on a job well done!
- *Replacement of Route 275 Bridge over Willimantic River* – The CTDOT reports that its contractor has completed the removal of superstructure on the Coventry side of the bridge and is in the process of constructing the center pier. Over the next two weeks the contractor will complete the center pier cap, as well as the installation of the precast abutments. The project is a few days ahead of schedule and should be completed by November 30, 2015.

Department Reports

- Town Manager's Office:
 - *ICMA Conference* - I recently attended the ICMA Conference in Seattle, Washington, the premier conference for local municipal and county managers worldwide. I found the conference to be very informative, and attended sessions on the following topics:
 - Council-staff relations
 - Best practices in budgeting
 - Economic development
 - Town-university relations
 - Leadership and organizational health
 - Citizen surveys
 - Technology applications in local government
 - Ethics
 - Women in leadership positions
 - Sports tourism

The ICMA conference is where I earn the bulk of my 40 hours of continuing education required on an annual basis to maintain my status as an ICMA-credentialed manager. The knowledge that I gain through my continuing education program assists me greatly in my role as Town Manager and I appreciate the Town Council's support for my professional development activities.

- *Weekend Fire at Carriage House Apartments* – Early Sunday morning, October 11, 2015, our Fire Department responded to a fire at the Carriage House Apartments. Three vehicles were burned and Fire Marshal personnel found scorch marks at the entrance to one of the apartments. State Police are now investigating the incident.

- Public Works Department
 - *Ravine Road neighborhood meeting* – As planned, our Public Works Department conducted a neighborhood meeting on October 1, 2015, to solicit input on seven potential options for the unimproved section of Ravine Road, which is presently closed to vehicular traffic. The consensus opinion of those in attendance was in favor of improving safety conditions and re-opening the unimproved section road as a two-way road with stop signs at narrow portions to create limited one-way traffic areas. This option would require approximately \$100,000 to install guiderails, remove boulders and regrade the road where needed. Since the meeting, staff has installed gates at both ends of the unimproved portion of the Ravine Road and erected a *No Thru Truck* sign and removed *Travel at Your Own Risk* signs. We plan to install, if approved by the state, two signs on Route 32 stating *Ravine Road Closed* and two signs at Ravine Lane stating *No Vehicles Beyond this Point, Residents Only*. The Traffic Authority will meet on October 27th to discuss the meeting and to make a recommendation to me. I will then bring any recommendations to the Town Council as part of the annual capital improvement program process.

Upcoming Events

- *Mansfield Pup Crawl* – At 9:30 AM on Saturday, Oct. 17, 9:30 AM, the Mansfield Downtown Partnership invites residents and visitors to the Second Annual Mansfield Pup Crawl. Participants and their four-legged friends will meet on the Mansfield Town Square at 9:30 AM for a guided walk through Downtown Storrs. The walk will be approximately 1.7 miles and will conclude at the Town Square. This event is free and open to the public. Donations for the Friends of Mansfield Animal Shelter will be gratefully accepted. All dogs must be on a leash and up-to-date with their shots. Participants are asked to be prepared to clean up after their dog(s) as needed. For more information go to <http://www.mansfieldct.gov/pupcrawl>.
- *Storrs Farmers Market* – The Storrs Farmers Market is in its 21st season. The Market is open from 3:00 to 6:00PM every Saturday through November 22nd on the front lawn of the Beck Municipal Building (Town Hall). Everything sold at Storrs Farmers Market is grown or produced in Connecticut. Visit www.storrsfarmersmarket.org for more information and to sign up for weekly emails from the Market.
- *Celebrate Walktober!* – Enjoy the many free, guided walks and experience the natural, historical and cultural treasures of The Last Green Valley. The complete walk schedule, with directions and descriptions, is available at the Mansfield Community Center and is posted on <http://www.thelastgreenvalley.org/> Below is a listing of WALKTOBER events sponsored by the Mansfield Parks Advisory Committee or the Agriculture Committee:
 - Sunday, October 18, 1:00 PM. Between a Rock and a Marshy Place (Wolf Rock and Sawmill Brook Preserve). Climb to Wolf Rock and enjoy a spectacular autumn view. Proceed through the Sawmill Brook Preserve to the spectacular Sawmill Brook Marsh. Park at the Wolf Rock Trailhead on Crane Hill Road.
 - Sunday, October 25, 1:00 PM. Exploring Schoolhouse Brook Park. Join us to explore the forest, stone walls, pond and stream as we stroll through the vibrant foliage. Learn about the history and natural systems of Mansfield's oldest Town Park. Park at the Clover Mill Rd Trailhead.
 - Sunday, October 25, 1:00 PM. Vegetables and Vistas (Twin Ponds Farm/Cloverleigh Farm 483 Browns Road). Enjoy the foliage and panoramic views across hundreds of acres of working land. Come hear about hay, firewood, and vegetable production and the preservation and restoration of Twin Ponds Farm.

Upcoming Meetings*

- Sustainability Committee, October 14, 2015, 5:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Zoning Board of Appeals, October 14, 2015, 7:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advocates for Children Executive Council, October 15, 2015, 10:00 AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

- Mansfield Community Campus Partnership, October 15, 2015, 4:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Committee on Committees Special Meeting, October 16, 2015, 8:10 AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Personnel Committee, October 19, 2015, 4:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting, October 19, 2015 7:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Partnership Planning and Design Committee, October 20, 2015, 5:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Ethics Board, October 21, 2015, 4:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Conservation Commission, October 21, 2015, 7:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Ad hoc Committee on Police Services, October 22, 2015, 8:10 AM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Economic Development Commission, October 22, 2015, 5:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, October 26, 2015, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

**Meeting dates/times are subject to change. Please view the [Town Calendar](#) or contact the Town Clerk's Office at 860-429-3302 for a complete and up-to-date listing of committee meetings.*